

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 329

By Ramsey

A RESOLUTION to commend Dr. Nancy Josefa Hamblen Acuff
for her honorable and astute service to the
people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Nancy Acuff is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, throughout her exemplary tenure in education, Dr. Acuff has distinguished herself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to her community; and

WHEREAS, the daughter of the late Ina Belle McMillian Hamblen and Josephus Hannibal Hamblen, Dr. Acuff earned her PhD in Early Childhood, Infancy and Child Psychology Research Development from Ohio State University in 1971; and

WHEREAS, during her distinguished career, Dr. Acuff has served many schools in East Tennessee, teaching second, fourth, and fifth grades and special education classes, as well as counseling junior high students; she also taught psychology at the University of Tampa, the Tampa Police Department, and MacDill Air Force Base, where she was the only civilian working behind the Flight Line; and

WHEREAS, she also served in many capacities at East Tennessee State University, where she was a professor, Director of Early Childhood Education, and Director of Advisement, and from which she retired in 1993; while at ETSU, she demonstrated great initiative in establishing the Child Study Center, the undergraduate and graduate Early Childhood Education degree programs, and the models and requirements for the Department of Human Development undergraduate courses; and

WHEREAS, notably, Nancy Acuff also delighted and educated thousands of children as “Miss Nancy” on the syndicated television program *The Romper Room*; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her tireless contributions to education, Dr. Acuff has always found time to give back to the community; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Acuff’s public service to Sullivan County includes serving as Co-Chair with the Director of the Carroll Reese Museum, of a bicentennial preview event in Blountville; the third President of the Sullivan County Historical Society; Co-Chair of the Blountville Bicentennial Commission; and Co-Chair of the Blountville Incorporation Committee; she also lobbied for establishment of archives for the Records Commission; and

WHEREAS, a true creative spirit, Nancy Acuff spent the summers of 1987 through 1993 participating in screenwriting training, and she is now in the process of writing two works; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Acuff’s remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to her reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and her uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Acuff is an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, and she epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant, and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, her many accomplishments aside, Dr. Acuff was fortunate to share both love and companionship with her husband, the late Dr. William Turner Acuff, until his passing; she is the proud mother of two children, Hans Josef Acuff and Eric Ingram Acuff; and the grandmother of Erica Louise Acuff, Jhan Josef Acuff, and Alicia Reece Acuff; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Acuff is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the “Volunteer State,” and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby commend Dr. Nancy Josefa Hamblen Acuff for her honorable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee as an educator and salute her unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.